

# 1 John Under the Microscope | Loving God

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup>This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup>This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup>We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup>Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup>This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. <sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. <sup>17</sup>All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. <sup>18</sup>We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. <sup>20</sup>We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-- even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

<sup>21</sup>Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:1-21

## Read 1 John 5:1-21

### 📖 Investigate:

Using the passage to the left, do the following to investigate the observable details of the passage:

- Underline references to Jesus.
- Circle all references to sin in the passage.
- Put a box around the things we are to do in this passage.

### 🗨️ Analyze:

Analyze the details to find the meaning of the passage through group discussion:

How have you grown or learned more about God through our study of 1 John?

What does this passage (1 John 5) teach us about loving God?

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Why is living according to God's commands a sign of our love for him? (v. 1-3)

Do you agree that God's commands aren't burdensome? (v. 3) How do you typically view God's commands – burdensome or freeing?

How does our obedience to God show that we have overcome the world?

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What do these verses teach us about Jesus?

Why does John stress that Christ came by water and blood?

How did God testify that Jesus was his Son in the New Testament? How does God testify that Jesus is his Son today?

How does God's testimony of Christ encourage you to love him even when he asks you to obey his commands?

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What is John's purpose in writing this? What comfort do we gain from it? (v. 13,18)

In v. 18 is John saying that once we are Christ followers we cease sinning completely? What is he truly saying here?

Who is he referring to in v. 18 when he says "the one who was born of God"?

What do we learn about God's character from this passage? About our salvation?

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✂ Synthesize:

*Synthesize the message of Scripture with life through application.*

What is one application that can be pulled from this passage that applies to the life of every Christ follower?

What are some ways that you can see God's commands as less burdensome and more freeing?

Are there sin areas in your life that you need to confess in order to follow God's commands and truly show him love, remembering that God has given us Christ to protect us?